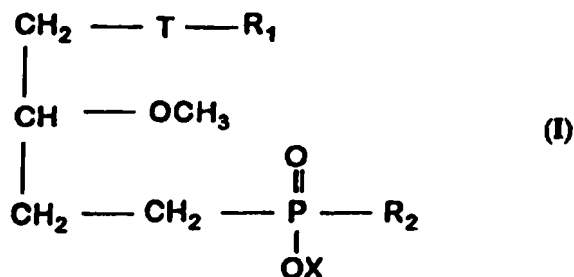




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(54) Title: [4-HEXADECYL-3-METHOXY-BUTYL] PHOSPHONIC ACID AND ITS PROTEIN CONJUGATES USEFUL AS ANTI-CANCER AGENTS

**(57) Abstract**

This invention pertains to the synthesis of [4-hexadecyl-3-methoxy-butyl] phosphonic acid and its protein conjugates, and the use of these compounds as anti-cancer agents. A method of treating cancer in a mammal afflicted with cancer, comprising treating the afflicted mammal with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of formula (I), wherein T is an oxygen or sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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[4-HEXADECYL-3-METHOXY-BUTYL] PHOSPHONIC ACID
AND ITS PROTEIN CONJUGATES
USEFUL AS ANTI-CANCER AGENTS

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

 This invention pertains to the synthesis of [4-hexadecyl-3-methoxy-butyl] phosphonic acid and its protein conjugates, and the use of these compounds as anti-cancer agents.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 European Patent No. P0230 575A2, dated April 12, 1986, discloses a group of glycerophospholipid compounds having an alkyl chain of C2-C22 and a methoxy group at the sn-2 position and a phosphocholine at the sn-3 position. These compounds are stated to be useful as anti-cancer agents.

20

 U.S. Patent No. 4,408,052, dated February 25, 1981, assigned to Takeda Chemical Industries, Osaka, Japan, claims a group of phospholipid carbamates useful as anti-tumor agents.

25

 Canadian Patent No. 1,248,534, dated January 10, 1989, granted to Takeda Chemical Industries of Japan, protects a group of ketolyso phospholipids, which purportedly are useful as antitumor agents.

30

 U.S. Patent No. 4,515,722, dated May 7, 1985, granted to Merck Sharp & Dohme, protects a group of phosphatidylinositol analogs which are evidently effective in inhibiting phospholipase C and thereby have utility as anti-inflammatory and analgesic agents.

35

 U.S. Patent No. 5,219,845, dated June 15, 1993, granted to The University of British Columbia, protects a

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group of substances with a glycerol backbone linked to a phosphorus atom and a polar head group useful as anti-inflammation agents.

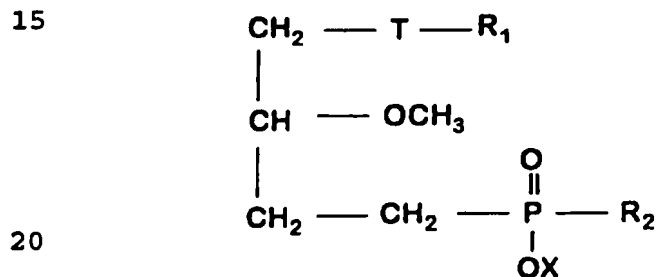
5 None of these patents discloses [4-hexadecyl-3-methoxy-butyl] phosphonic acid useful as an anti-cancer agent.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10

The present invention provides for an anti-cancer compound of the general formula:

15



20

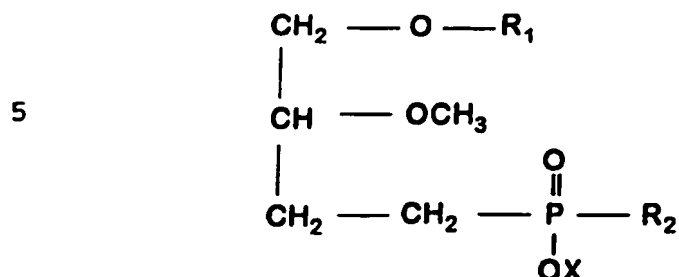
(I)
R₂ is OX or
NHR

25

wherein T is an oxygen or sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation. The compound includes either of the opposite
30 stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers.

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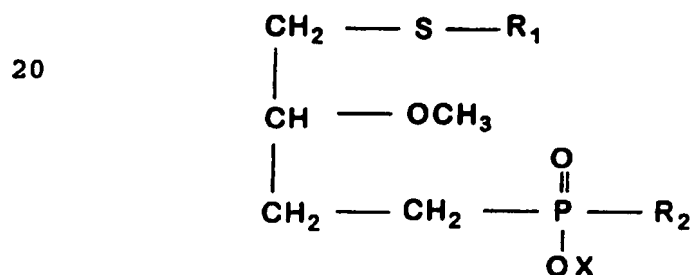
A phosphonic compound of the general formula:



(II)

wherein R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation. The compound includes either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers.

A phosphonic compound of the general formula:



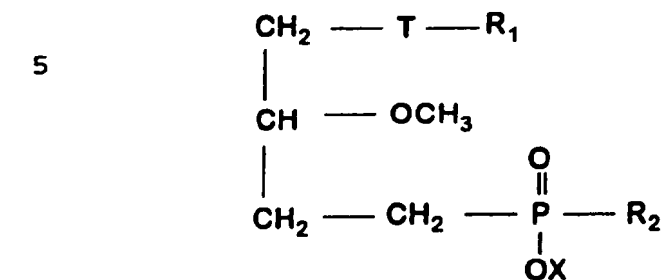
(III)

wherein R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation. The compound includes either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers.

A method of treating cancer, lung cancer, colorectal cancer, leukemia, lymphoma or melanoma in a mammal afflicted with cancer, lung cancer, colorectal cancer, leukemia, lymphoma or melanoma, comprising treating the

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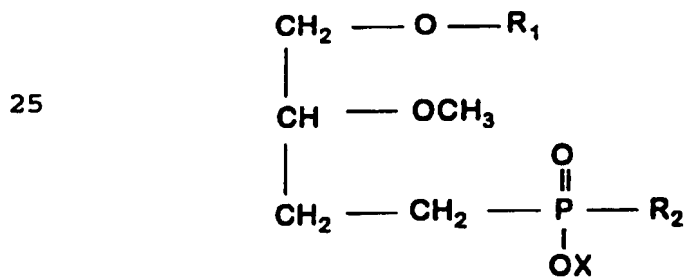
afflicted mammal with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of the following general formula:



(I)

wherein T is either an oxygen or sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation. The compound includes either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers.

A method of treating cancer of lung, colorectal cancer, leukemia, lymphoma or melanoma with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of the following formula:



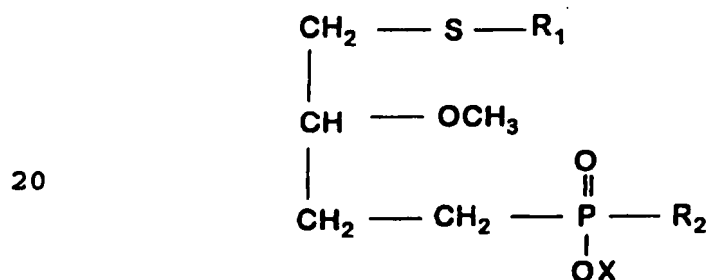
(II)

wherein R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation. The compound includes either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers. The phosphonic compound is administered to the afflicted mammal at a dosage of 5 to 50 mg/Kg body weight, and may be adminis-

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tered to the afflicted mammal orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, intradermally, subcutaneously, topically or intravenously in the form of a liposome or other lipid vesicle, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In the case of leukemia or lymphoma, the phosphonic compound can be administered directly to the afflicted mammal's bone marrow, blood, blood cells, leukocytes, lymphocytes or other such extracorporeal preparation containing the mammal's diseased cells, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

A method of treating cancer of lung, colorectal cancer, leukemia, lymphoma or melanoma in a mammal with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of the following formula:



(III)

wherein R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation. The compound includes either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers. The phosphonic compound is administered to the afflicted mammal at a dosage of 5 to 50 mg/Kg body weight, and may be administered to the afflicted mammal orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, intradermally, subcutaneously, topically or intravenously in the form of a liposome or other lipid vesicle, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In the case of leukemia or lymphoma, the phosphonic acid can be administered directly to the afflicted mammal's bone marrow, blood, blood cells, leukocytes,

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lymphocytes or other such extracorporeal preparation containing the mammal's diseased cells, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5 These phosphonic compounds are useful as anti-cancer agents since they inhibit the growth of malignant cells.

10 The phosphonic compounds as described above or as claimed include either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)] or a mixture thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC
EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

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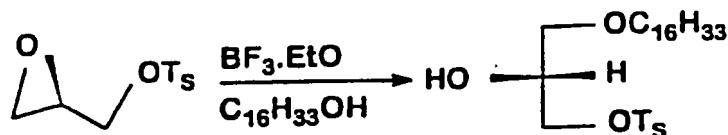
1. Production of the Compounds of the Invention

(a) Synthesis of [4-hexadecyloxy-3-methoxy-butyl]
phosphonic acid

20

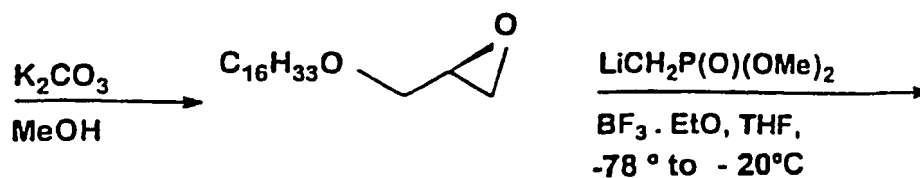
The phosphonic compounds of the invention, wherein T is oxygen, can be synthesized according to the following reaction sequence:

25



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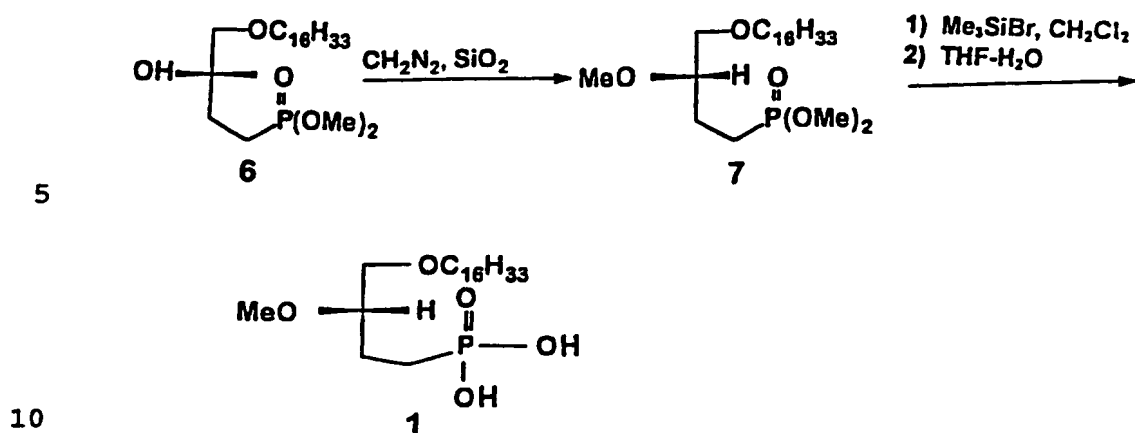
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The reaction of 20 mmol of (S)-(+)-glycidly tosylate and 30 mmol of 1-hexadecanol in 50 ml methylene chloride in the presence of catalytic boron trifluoride etherate was carried out. After purification by flash chromatography (elution with 5:1 hexane/ethyl acetate), followed by three recrystallizations from ether-hexane, there was obtained 7.41g (80%) of ring-opened product 4 (1-O-hexadecyl-*sn*-glycerol 3-O-*p*-toluene-sulfonate).

To a suspension of 15 mmol of the tosylate 4 in 100 ml of dry methanol was added 30 mmol of powdered potassium carbonate at 0°C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hours at 0°C, diluted with 300 ml of ethyl ether, and filtered through a pad of silica gel. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in hexane and filtered through a pad of silica gel to give 3.95g (98%) of the epoxide 5 (hexadecyl (S)-2-oxiranylmethyl ether) as a white solid, which was used without further purification.

To a solution of 40 mmol of dimethyl methanephosphonate in 30 ml of dry THF was added dropwise 40 mmol of *n*-butyllithium (a 2.5 M solution in hexane), and the reaction was stirred for 30 minutes at -78°C. To this mixture was added dropwise boron trifluoride etherate (40

- 8 -

mmol), followed by a solution of 20 mmol of the epoxide 5 in 100 ml of THF. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hours at -78°C and then warmed to -20°C and stirred for a further 1 hour. The mixture was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution and was concentrated under reduced pressure. The product from the aqueous residue was extracted with ether, and the combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated under vacuum. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (elution with chloroform-methanol, 25:1) gave 7.54g (89%) of the product 6 (dimethyl 4-(hexadecyloxy)-3(S)-hydroxybutanephosphonate) as a white solid after lyophilization from hexane.

To a mixture of 5.0 mmol of the hydroxy phosphonate 6 and 11g of silica gel (previously heated at 150°C for 2 hours under high vacuum) was added an ether solution of diazomethane (20 molar equivalents based on substrate) at 0°C. After the mixture had stirred at 0°C for 6 hours, another 20 molar equivalents of diazomethane solution was added, and the mixture was stirred for 24 hours at 0°C. The silica gel was removed from the reaction mixture by filtration and washed with ether. The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (elution with chloroform-methanol, 50:1) to give 1.94g (88%) of the product 7 (dimethyl 4-(hexadecyloxy)-3(S)-methoxybutanephosphonate) as a colourless oil.

To a solution of 0.1 mmol of methoxy phosphonate 7 in 5 ml of methylene chloride was added 2.7 mmol of bromotrimethylsilane. After the mixture was allowed to stand for 2 hours at room temperature, volatile materials were removed under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in THF-water (17 ml, 8:1 by volume), and the mixture was allowed to stand for 2 hours at room temperature. The solvents were removed under vacuum, and the residue was

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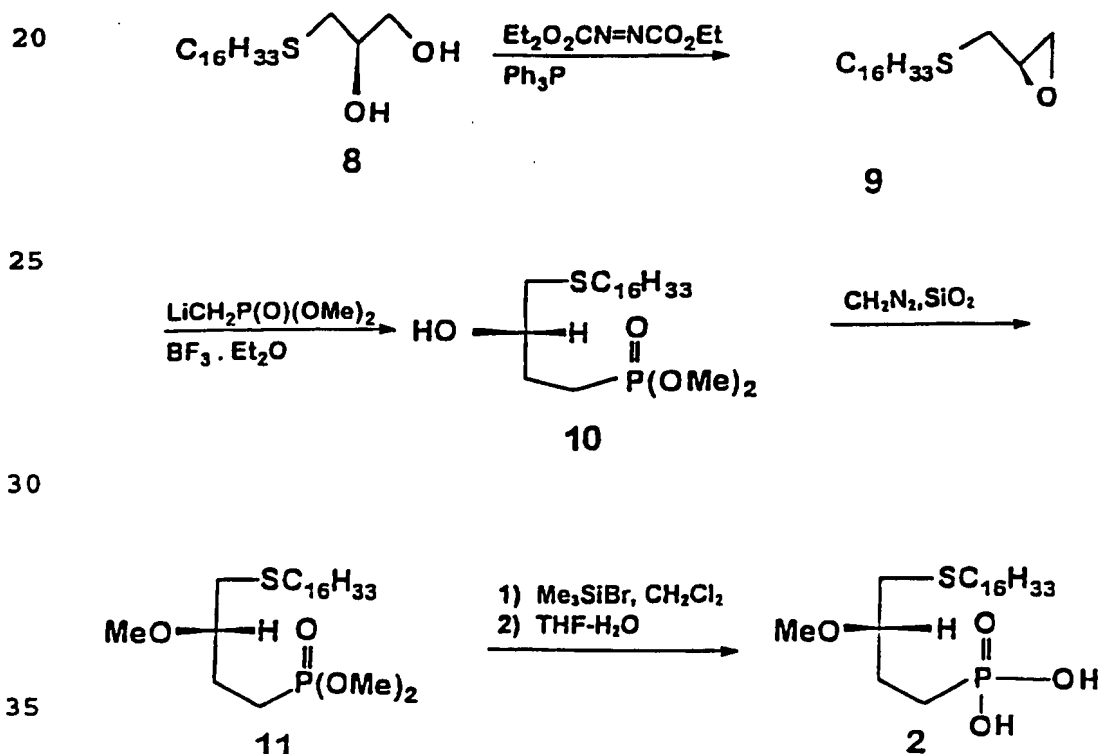
dried by repeated azeotropic distillation with dry 2-propanal under vacuum.

Lyophilization from benzene gave 408 mg (100%) of the phosphonic acid 1 ([4-hexadecyloxy-3(S)-methoxy-butyl] phosphonic acid) as a white solid.

The enantiomeric phosphonic acid ([4-hexadecyloxy-3(R)-methoxy-butyl] phosphonic acid) can be prepared according to the method above using the corresponding starting material.

(b) Synthesis of [4-hexadecylthio-3-methoxy-butyl] phosphonic acid

The phosphonic compounds of the invention, wherein T is sulphur, can be synthesized according to the following reaction sequence.



- 10 -

In situ NaBH_4 -mediated opening of (S)-glycidol (prepared by asymmetric epoxidation of allyl alcohol) with hexadecyl mercaptan yielded the starting material 8 (1-(hexadecylthio)-*sn*-glycerol).

5

A mixture of 10 mmol of the diol 8, 15 mmol of triphenylphosphine, and 15 mmol of diethyl azodicarboxylate in 50 ml of benzene was refluxed for 24 hours. After removal of the solvent, 50 ml of ether was added, and the precipitate of phosphine oxide was removed by filtration. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (elution with 20:1 hexane-ethyl acetate) to give 2.71g (86%) of the product 9 (hexadecyl(S)-2-oxiranylmethyl thioether) as a white solid.

15

To a solution of 20 mmol of dimethyl methanephosphonate in 15 ml of dry THF was added dropwise 20 mmol of *n*-butyllithium (a 2.5 M solution in hexane). After the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at -78°C , 20 mmol of boron trifluoride etherate was added dropwise, followed by a solution of 5.0 mmol of the epoxide 9 in 50 ml of THF. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hours at -78°C , warmed to -20°C , stirred for 1 hour, and then quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, extracted with ether, and the combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated under vacuum. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (elution with chloroform-methanol, 25:1) gave 1.98g (90%) of the product 10 (dimethyl 4-(hexadecylthio)-3(S)-hydroxybutanephosphonate) as a white solid after lyophilization from hexane.

30

To a mixture of 5.0 mmol of the hydroxy phosphonate 10 and 11g of silica gel (previously heated at 150°C for 2 hours under high vacuum) was added an ether solution

35

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of diazomethane (20 molar equivalents based on substrate) at 0°C. After the mixture had stirred at 0°C for 6 hours, another 20 molar equivalents of diazomethane solution was added, and the mixture was stirred for 24 hours at 0°C.

5 The silica gel was removed from the reaction mixture by filtration and washed with ether. The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (elution with chloroform-methanol, 50:1) to give 1.94g (88%) of pure product 11 (dimethyl 4-(hexadecylthio)-3(S)-methoxybutane-
10 phosphonate) as a colourless oil.

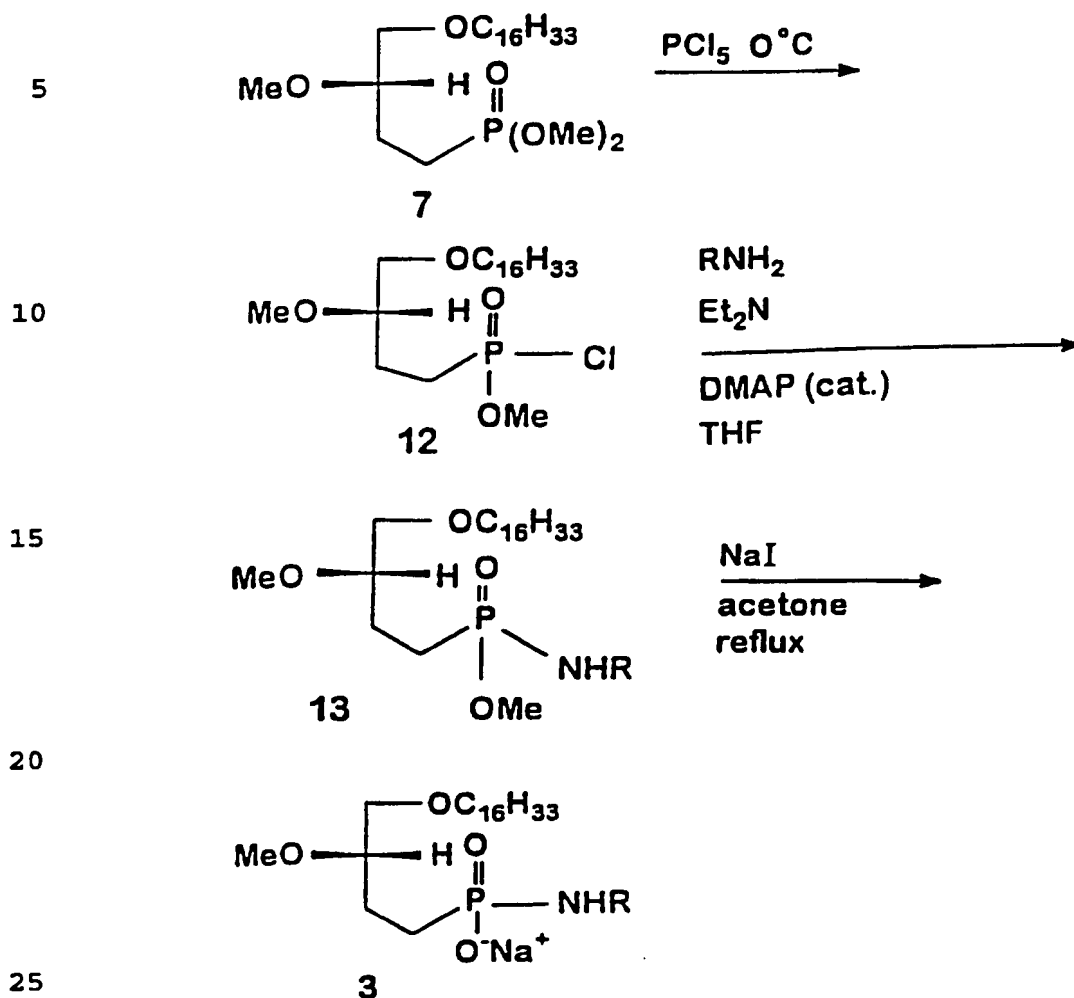
To a solution of 0.1 mmol of methoxy phosphonate 11 in 5 ml of methylene chloride was added 2.7 mmol of bromotrimethylsilane. After the mixture was allowed to
15 stand for 2 hours at room temperature, volatile materials were removed under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in THF-water (17 ml, 8:1 by volume), and the mixture was allowed to stand for 2 hours at room temperature. The solvents were removed under vacuum, and the residue was
20 dried by repeated azeotropic distillation with dry 2-propanol under vacuum. Lyophilization from benzene gave the phosphonic acid 2 ([4-hexadecylthio-3(S)-methoxybutyl] phosphonic acid) as a white solid.

25 The enantiomeric phosphonic acid ([4-hexadecylthio-3(R)-methoxy-butyl] phosphonic acid) can be prepared according to the method above using the corresponding starting material.

30 **(c) Synthesis of protein-conjugated Phospholipid compounds**

The phosphonic compounds of the invention, wherein T is oxygen or sulphur and R₂ is a protein moiety, can be synthesized according to the following reaction
35 sequence.

- 12 -



The specific protein-conjugate phosphonic compound may be selected by use of the appropriate dimethyl phosphonate starting material. An example is provided here for the preparation of a [4-hexadecyloxy-3(S)-methoxybutyl] phosphonic-protein conjugate.

Dimethyl 4-(hexadecyloxy)-3(S)-methoxybutane phosphonate 7 in benzene was cooled to 0°C (ice-salt bath) and an equimolar amount of PCl_5 was added so that the

- 13 -

temperature did not exceed 10°C. After 1 hour of stirring, the solvent and POCl₃ were removed under high vacuum. The resulting acid chloride 12, was used without further purification.

5

To a solution of acid chloride 12 dissolved in THF was added triethylamine (1.2 equivalents) and the protein moiety (1 to 4 equivalents). This mixture was allowed to react for up to 14 hours at room temperature, catalysed by DMAP. The solvents were removed under vacuum to yield the phosphonamide 13.

To a solution of the phosphonamide 13 dissolved in acetone was added sodium iodide. The mixture was allowed to reflux for 3.5 hours, permitting the selective monodealkylation of the phosphonamide to yield the protein-conjugated phosphonic salt 3.

2. Biological Activity

20

In vitro tests, such as MTT assay, have been conducted to establish that phosphonic acids inhibit the growth of cancer cells and kill them. In vitro tests, as well as in vivo testing using animal models of cancer, are useful indicators of the cytotoxic activity of new anti-cancer compounds. While it would be ideal to test new compounds in human beings, such testing is unethical, and thus it is acceptable to extrapolate results of testing new anti-cancer compounds in vitro and in vivo in animal models to the human condition.

Experiments were performed using a number of different tumour cell lines. Tumor cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, penicillin (50 units/ml), streptomycin (50 µg/ml) and mercaptoethanol (5 µg/ml) in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂. The cells were passaged weekly by serial 1/10 to 1/10,000

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dilutions. The cell viability and growth were constantly monitored by staining with trypan blue exclusion dye or the incorporation of tritiated thymidine.

5 The MTT assay is performed using 3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT), a water soluble tetrazolium salt yielding a yellowish solution when prepared in media or salt solutions lacking phenol red. Dissolved MTT is converted to an
10 insoluble purple formazan by cleavage of the tetrazolium ring by active mitochondrial dehydrogenase enzymes of living cells. Dead cells do not cause this conversion. The converted dye can be solubilized with DMSO, and the dissolved material measured spectrophotometrically, yield-
15 ing absorbance as a function of concentration of converted dye. Approximately 2500 cells/well were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours in a 96-well microtiter plate. Various concentrations of the test compound (dissolved in HEPES buffer) or vehicle, diluted in 100 μ L of the culture
20 medium, or culture medium alone were added to each well, and the cells incubated for a further 24 to 72 hours. MTT working solution (50 μ L of a 1:5 (v/v) diluted stock solution prepared as per the manufacturer's directions) was added to each well and the cells incubated at 37°C for 4
25 hours. The culture supernatant was aspirated, leaving 10 to 20 μ L in the bottom of each well, and 150 μ L DMSO was added to solubilize any converted dye. The absorbance in each well was read in a spectrophotometer at 540 nm, and the cell viability in the wells containing the test com-
30 pounds expressed as a percentage of the absorbance in control wells.

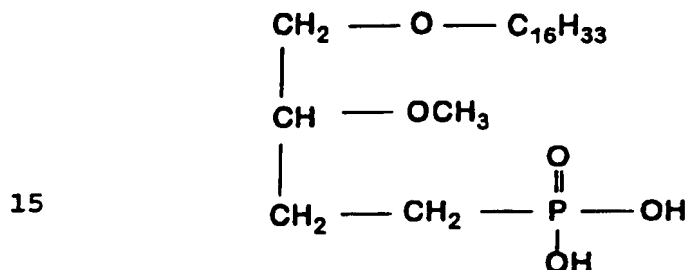
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(a) Activity of phosphonic acids against colorectal cancer

Example 15 Activity of Phosphonic Acids Against
 Human Colorectal Cancer Cells

It has been discovered that the phosphonic acid
of the following formula:

10



15

(IV)

has a cytotoxic effect against HT-29 cells (human color-
20 ectal cancer) in the MTT cell viability assay when the
compound is administered either as the sodium salt or the
free acid. This effect is indicative of the anti-cancer
activity of the above phosphonic acid (compound IV).

25 Table 1 shows the effect of 72 hours' exposure to
various concentrations of the phosphonic acid of the above
formula (compound IV) on the viability of HT-29 cells.

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Table 1

MTT Cell Viability Assay of HT-29 Tumor Cells
Exposed to Various Concentrations of
5 Phosphonic Acid (Compound IV) for 72 Hours

	Phosphonic acid concentration (μ M)	Mean (n = 3) Absorbance (% of control)
10	0.0	100.00
	0.1	99.97
	0.5	89.21
	1.0	77.29
	2.5	62.20
	5.0	56.71
15	10.0	35.50
	25.0	12.98
	50.0	9.14

Example 2

20 Table 2 shows the results of an assay performed
to observe the effects of compound IV (phosphonic acid) on
H460 (human cell lung cancer) cells. Table 2 shows the
25 effect of 72 hours' exposure to various concentrations of
the phosphonic acid of the above formula (compound IV) on
the viability of H460 cells.

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Table 2

MTT Cell Viability Assay of H460 Tumor Cells
Exposed to Various Concentrations of
5 Phosphonic Acid (Compound IV) for 72 Hours

	Phosphonic acid (Na salt) concentration (μ M)	Mean (n = 3) Absorbance (% of control)
10	0.0	100
		100
	0.2	96
	0.4	88
	0.8	78
	1.6	47
15	3.2	12
	6.4	0
	12.8	0

As can be seen from Tables 1 and 2, phosphonic
20 acids compounds of the formula shown above (compound IV)
are cytotoxic against H460 human colorectal cancer cells
and lung cancer cells over 72 hours when administered as
the sodium salt. This effect is dose-dependent, and
demonstrates the anti-cancer activity of phosphonic acids.

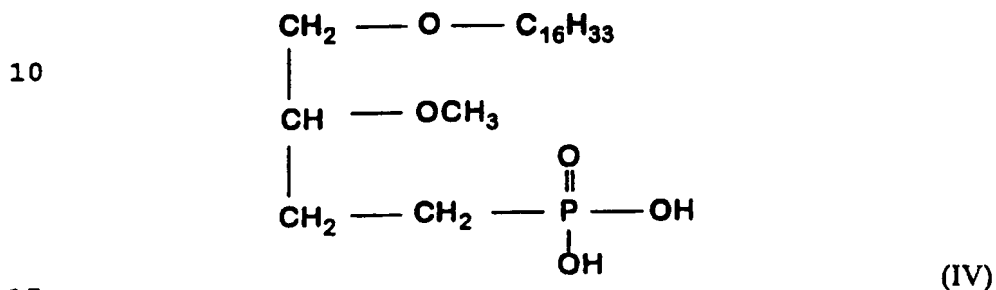
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Example 3Activity of Phosphonic Acids Against
Murine Metastatic Colon Cancer Cells

5

It has been discovered that the phosphonic acid compound of the following formula:



has a cytotoxic effect against metastatic Colon 26 cells (murine colon cancer) in the MTT cell viability assay when the compound is administered as the sodium salt. This effect is indicative of the anti-cancer activity of the above phosphonic acid (compound IV).

Table 3 shows the effect of 72 hours' exposure to various concentrations of the phosphonic acid of the above formula (compound IV) on the viability of metastatic Colon 26 cells.

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Table 3

MTT Cell Viability Assay of Metastatic Colon 26
Tumor Cells Exposed to Various Concentrations
of Phosphonic Acid (Compound IV) for 72 Hours

	Phosphonic acid (Na salt) concentration (μ M)	Mean (n = 3) Absorbance (% of control)
10	0.0	100.00
	0.1	106.91
	0.5	101.20
	1.0	105.21
	2.5	105.17
	5.0	87.32
	10.0	61.46
15	25.0	18.01
	50.0	0.46

As can be seen from Table 3, phosphonic acids of the formula shown above (compound IV) are cytotoxic against Colon 26 murine metastatic colon cancer cells over 72 hours when administered as the sodium salt. This effect is dose-dependent, and demonstrates the anti-cancer activity of phosphonic acids.

Examples 1 and 2 clearly demonstrate that the phosphonic compounds of the invention have a cytotoxic action against colorectal cancer, and are thus useful as anti-cancer agents.

- 20 -

(b) Activity of Phosphonic Acids
Against Leukemia and Lymphoma

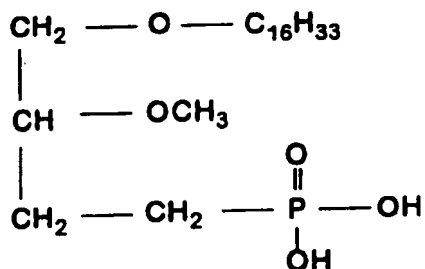
Example 4

5 Activity of Phosphonic Acids Against
 a Human Myeloleukemic Cell Line

 It has been discovered that the phosphonic acid
of the following formula:

10

15



(IV)

20 has a cytotoxic effect against HL-60 tumor cells (a human
myeloleukemic cell line) in the MTT cell viability assay
when the compound is administered as the sodium salt. This
effect is indicative of the anti-cancer activity of the
above phosphonic acid (compound IV).

25 Table 4 shows the effect of 72 hours' exposure to
various concentrations of the phosphonic acid of the above
formula (compound IV) on the viability of HL-60 cells.

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Table 4

MTT Cell Viability Assay of HL-60 Tumor Cells
Exposed to Various Concentrations of
5 Phosphonic Acid (Compound IV) for 72 Hours

	Phosphonic acid (Na salt) concentration (μ M)	Mean (n = 3) Absorbance (% of control)
10	0.0	100
	0.1	95
	0.2	93
	0.4	88
	0.8	80
	1.6	61
	3.2	40
15	6.4	6
	12.8	0

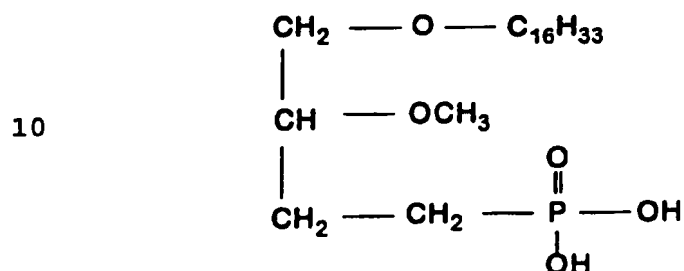
As can be seen from Table 4, phosphonic acid
20 compounds of the formula shown above (compound IV) are
cytotoxic against HL-60 human myeloleukemic cells over 72
hours when administered as the sodium salt. This effect is
dose-dependent, and demonstrates the anti-cancer activity
of phosphonic acids.

25

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Example 5Activity of Phosphonic Acids Against Mouse Lymphoma

5 It has been discovered that the phosphonic acid
of the following formula:



(IV)

15 has a cytotoxic effect against L1210 cells (murine
lymphoma) in the MTT cell viability assay when the compound
is administered as the sodium salt. This effect is indica-
20 tive of the anti-cancer activity of the above phosphonic
acid (compound IV).

 Table 5 shows the effect of 72 hours' exposure to
various concentrations of the phosphonic acid of the above
formula (compound IV) on the viability of L1210 cells.

25

- 23 -

Table 5

MTT Cell Viability Assay of L1210 Tumor Cells
Exposed to Various Concentrations of
Phosphonic Acid (Compound IV) for 72 Hours

5

	Phosphonic acid (Na salt) concentration (μ M)	Mean (n = 3) Absorbance (% of control)
10	0.0	100
	0.1	95
	0.2	81
	0.4	87
	0.8	78
	1.6	62
	3.2	31
15	6.4	3
	12.8	0

As can be seen from Table 5, phosphonic acid
compounds of the formula shown above (compound IV) are
cytotoxic against L1210 murine lymphoma over 72 hours when
administered as the sodium salt. This effect is dose-
dependent, and demonstrates the anti-cancer activity of
phosphonic acids.

25

Examples 4 and 5 clearly demonstrate that the
phosphonic compounds of the invention have a cytotoxic
action against leukemia and lymphoma, and are thus useful
as anti-cancer agents.

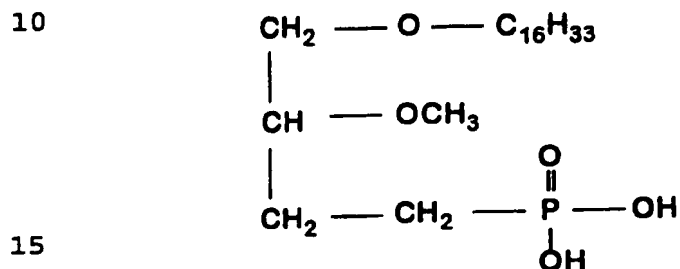
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- 24 -

(c) Activity of Phosphonic Acids Against Melanoma

Example 65 Activity of Phosphonic Acids Against Human Melanoma

It has been discovered that the phosphonic acid compound of the following formula:



(IV)

has a cytotoxic effect against RPMI 7951 cells (human melanoma cell line) in the MTT cell viability assay when
20 the compound is administered as the sodium salt. This effect is indicative of the anti-cancer activity of the above phosphonic acid (compound IV).

Table 6 shows the effect of 72 hours' exposure to
25 various concentrations of the phosphonic acid of the above formula (compound IV) on the viability of RPMI 7951 cells.

- 25 -

Table 6

MTT Cell Viability Assay of RPMI 7951 Tumor Cells
Exposed to Various Concentrations of
Phosphonic Acid (Compound IV) for 72 Hours

5

	Phosphonic acid (Na salt) concentration (μ M)	Mean (n = 3) Absorbance (% of control)
10	0.0	100
	0.1	91
	0.2	89
	0.4	88
	0.8	74
	1.6	67
	3.2	52
15	6.4	37
	12.8	7

As can be seen from Table 6, phosphonic acids of the formula shown above (compound IV) are cytotoxic against RPMI 7951 human melanoma cells over 72 hours when administered as the sodium salt. This effect is dose-dependent, and demonstrates the anti-cancer activity of phosphonic acids.

25

Example 5 clearly demonstrates that the phosphonic compounds of the invention have a cytotoxic action against human melanoma, and are thus useful as anti-cancer agents.

30

In addition to the cytotoxicity, compound IV showed to be a potent inhibitor of phosphatidylinositol 3 Kinase (PI_3 Kinase) as shown in Table 7.

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Table 7

Effect of Compound IV on the Activity of PI₃Kinase
as Determined by Incorporation of ³²P to PIP₂

5

Compound IV concentration(μ M)	PI ₃ Kinase activity (³² P CPM)
Control	4105 \pm 205
20	427 \pm 28
200	32 \pm 7

10

Inhibitory constants: 1C₅₀ = 10 μ M; Ki - 2 μ M

15 The PI₃Kinase activity is determined as the incorporation of ³²P at the 3-position of the inositol ring of phosphatidylinositol (PI) is in the presence of ³²P-ATP.

3. Usage and Dosage

20 The compounds of the invention are useful as anti-cancer agents, and may be administered safely by either parenteral, oral or topical routes in pharmaceutical preparations such as injections, tablets, capsules, liquid preparations or ointments. These preparations are used by
25 an appropriate route of administration, depending on the specific affliction, patient conditions and other factors. Injections may be given intravenously, intramuscularly, intradermally or subcutaneously. The dose of compound can be selected based on the patient weight, treatment regimen
30 or purpose of administration, generally within the range of 5 to 50 mg/Kg. These compound preparations may be administered 1 to 4 times daily, at 2 to 7 day intervals, or as otherwise necessary to maintain a therapeutic level of the compound in body tissues depending on the specific affliction,
35 tion, patient conditions, treatment regimen or purpose of administration.

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5 Injections, intravenous infusions and similar preparations are prepared by conventional methods in either aqueous solution or physiological saline containing 20% propylene glycol and a preservative such as 0.5% ascorbic acid, with an upwardly adjusted pH in phosphate buffer. The drug solution is sterilized by passing it through a 22 μ m filter, and distributed into glass vials in approximately 1 ml aliquots to provide a unit dosage. The aliquots are then lyophilized, and the vials tightly stoppered and capped to maintain sterility. The drug may be reconstituted in the vial by the addition of physiological saline or aqueous diluent.

15 Tablets are prepared by conventional methods. Unit dosage tablets can be prepared by compressing a mixture of 40 mg of phosphonic acid compound, 200 mg of lactose, and 50 mg Avicel™ into the form of a tablet. A similar drug mixture may also be contained in unit dose within a cellulose-based capsule.

20

 An ointment or cream may also be prepared by conventional methods by mixing the phosphonic acid compound in a commercially-available glycerine-based cream. The cream is applied topically directly to the afflicted area.

25

 The compounds of the invention may also be administered in the form of a liposome. A mixture of phosphonic acid compound and lecithin is mechanically treated to form a bilayer (one side hydrophilic, the other hydrophobic) which spontaneously forms micelles (liposomes). These may be filtered to obtain liposomes of uniform size (approximately 10 nm) and dose (approximately 50 mg/L). Liposomes are sterilized by filtration through a 22 μ m filter, and administered as an intravenous solution.

35

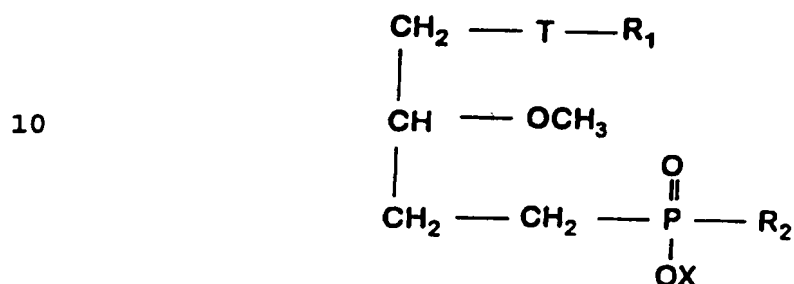
- 28 -

As will be apparent to those skilled in the art in the light of the foregoing disclosure, many alterations and modifications are possible in the practice of this invention without departing from the spirit or scope thereof. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be construed in accordance with the substance defined by the following claims.

- 29 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating cancer in a mammal afflicted with cancer, comprising treating the afflicted mammal with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of the formula:



15

wherein T is an oxygen or sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, for treatment of colorectal, and lung cancers, or lymphoma, leukemia or melanoma.

35

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon

- 30 -

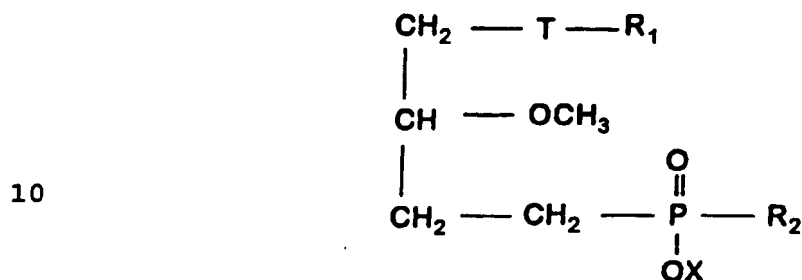
atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

- 5 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.
- 10 6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R_2 is OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.
- 15 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, R_2 is a protein moiety, and X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.
- 20 8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protein moiety is an antibody targeted to a specific antigen or other cellular marker, used in the treatment of cancer.
- 25 9. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phosphonic compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or salt thereof, is administered to the afflicted mammal orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, intradermally, subcutaneously, topically or intravenously in the form of
- 30 a liposome or other lipid vesicle, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 35 10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phosphonic compound is administered to the afflicted mammal at a dosage of 5 to 50 mg/kg body weight.

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11. A method of treating colorectal cancer in a mammal afflicted with colorectal cancer, comprising treating the afflicted mammal with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of the formula:

5



wherein T is an oxygen or sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

15

20

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

25

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R₂ is OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

30

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, and X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

35

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15. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

5

16. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R₂ is OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

10

17. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, R₂ is a protein moiety, and X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

15

18. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the protein moiety is an antibody targeted to a specific antigen or other cellular marker, used in the treatment of colorectal cancer.

20

19. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the phosphonic compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or salt thereof, is administered to the afflicted mammal orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, intradermally, subcutaneously, topically or intravenously in the form of a liposome or other lipid vesicle, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25

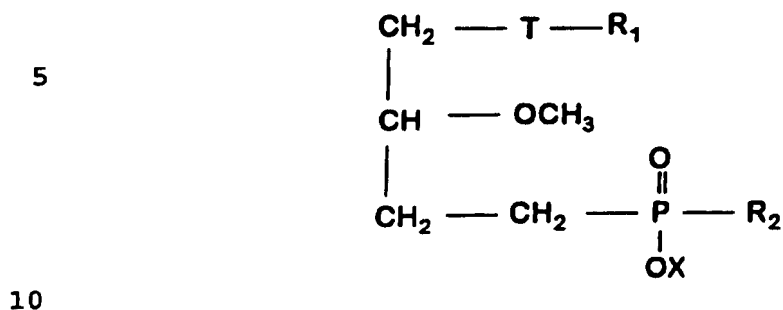
20. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the phosphonic compound is administered to the afflicted mammal at a dosage of 5 to 50 mg/kg body weight.

30

21. A method of treating leukemia or lymphoma, melanoma or lung cancer in a mammal afflicted with these cancers, comprising treating the afflicted mammal with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of the formula:

35

- 33 -



wherein T is an oxygen or sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceuti-
 15 cally acceptable cation, and either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

20 22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

25 23. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, and R₂ is OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

30 24. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, R₂ is a protein moiety, and X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

35 25. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20

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carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

26. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R_2 is OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

27. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, R_2 is a protein moiety, and X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

28. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the protein moiety is an antibody targeted to a specific antigen or other cellular marker, used in the treatment of leukemia or lymphoma.

29. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the phosphonic compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or salt thereof, is administered to the afflicted mammal orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, intradermally, subcutaneously, topically or intravenously in the form of a liposome or other lipid vesicle, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

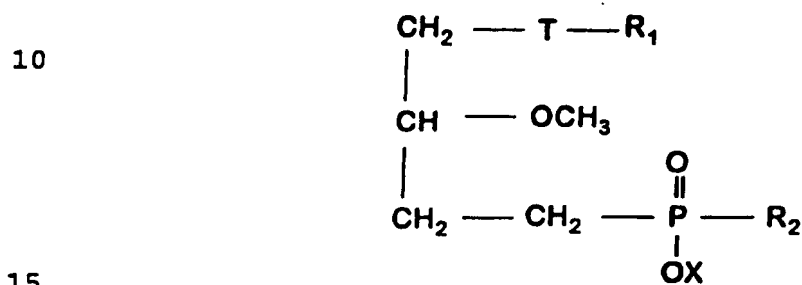
30. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the phosphonic compound is administered to the afflicted mammal at a dosage of 5 to 50 mg/kg body weight.

31. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the phosphonic compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or salt thereof, is administered directly to the afflicted mammal's bone marrow, blood, blood cells, leukocytes, lymphocytes or other such extracorporeal preparations

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containing the mammal's diseased cells, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. A method of treating melanoma in a mammal afflicted with melanoma, comprising treating the afflicted mammal with a therapeutic amount of a phosphonic compound of the formula:



wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

33. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

34. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, and R₂ is OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

35. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, R₂ is a protein moiety, and X

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is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

36. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

37. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R_2 is OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

38. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein T is a sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 16 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms, R_2 is a protein moiety, and X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

39. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the protein moiety is an antibody targeted to a specific antigen or other cellular marker, used in the treatment of melanoma.

40. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the phosphonic compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or salt thereof, is administered to the afflicted mammal orally, intravenously, intramuscularly, intradermally, subcutaneously, topically or intravenously in the form of a liposome or other lipid vesicle, with or without a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

41. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the phosphonic compound is administered to the afflicted mammal at a dosage of 5 to 50 mg/kg body weight.

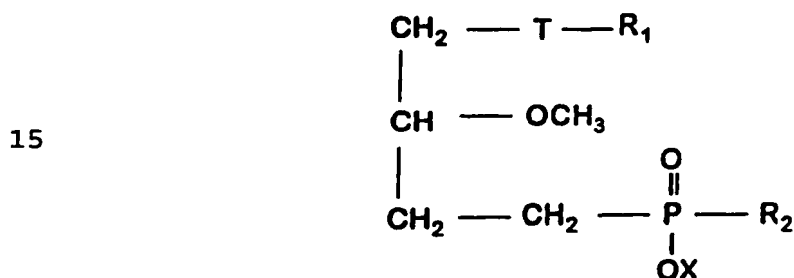
- 37 -

42. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phosphonic compound includes either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of stereoisomers.

5

43. The compound as claimed in claim 1 used as inhibitor of PI₃Kinase, and the biological systems that this enzyme is used to prevent a symptom.

10 44. A phosphonic compound of the formula:



20 wherein T is an oxygen or sulphur atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and either of the opposite stereochemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of
 25 stereoisomers thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

45. A compound as claimed in claim 44, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20
 30 carbon atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

46. A compound as claimed in claim 44, wherein T is an oxygen atom, R₁ is an aliphatic chain containing 16
 35 carbon atoms and 33 hydrogen atoms and R₂ is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceuti-

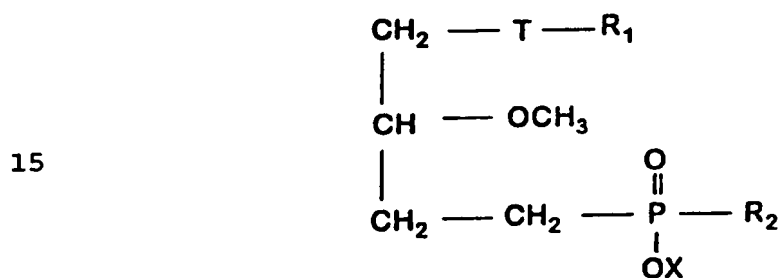
- 38 -

cally acceptable cation, for treatment of colorectal, and lung cancers, or lymphoma, leukemia or melanoma.

47. A compound as claimed in claim 46 wherein R_2 is OH
5 and OX is OH.

48. A compound as claimed in claim 44 wherein R is NHR.

10 49. The use of a compound of the formula:



20 wherein T is an oxygen or sulphur atom, R_1 is an aliphatic chain containing 12 to 20 carbon atoms and R_2 is a protein moiety, or OX where X is a hydrogen atom, or a pharmaceuti-
cally acceptable cation, and either of the opposite stereo-
chemical configurations [(R) or (S)], or a mixture of
25 stereoisomers thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the treatment of cancer in a mammal afflicted with cancer, comprising administering to the afflicted mammal a therapeutic amount of the compound of the formula.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int ional Application No

PCT/CA 95/00068

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C07F9/38 A61K47/48 C07K14/00 A61K31/66 A61K38/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07F A61K C07K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US,A,5 219 845 (HASSAN SALARI) 15 June 1993 cited in the application	1-49
X	see column 9, line 20 - line 35 ---	44
Y	TETRAHEDRON LETT. (TELEAY,00404039);93; VOL.34 (22); PP.3539-42, UNIV. RHODE ISLAND;DEP. CHEM.; KINGSTON; 02881; RI; USA (US) Li Z et al 'Phosphonate isosteres of phospholipids'	1-49
X	see page 3540, scheme 2, compound 15 b ---	44
A	EP,A,0 230 575 (MAX-PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN E.V.) 5 August 1987 cited in the application see the whole document -----	1-49

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 September 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

25. 10. 95

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+ 31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Beslier, L

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CA95/00068

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-42
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Remark: Although claims 1 to 42 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/CA 95/00068

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A-5219845	15-06-93	US-A- 5369097	29-11-94
		WO-A- 9219627	12-11-92
		EP-A- 0581793	09-02-94

EP-A-0230575	05-08-87	DE-A- 3641379	03-09-87
		DE-A- 3641491	17-09-87
		DE-A- 3685214	11-06-92
		WO-A- 8703480	18-06-87
		WO-A- 8703478	18-06-87
		EP-A- 0225608	16-06-87
		EP-A, B 0248047	09-12-87
		EP-A, B 0248062	09-12-87
		IE-B- 59777	06-04-94
		IE-B- 59778	06-04-94
		JP-T- 63501874	28-07-88
		JP-T- 63501719	14-07-88
		NO-B- 174877	18-04-94
		NO-B- 175620	01-08-94
		US-A- 4837023	06-06-89
		US-A- 5049552	17-09-91
